

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 9, 1999

LB 126, 386A

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The bill is advanced. Mr. Clerk, next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, (LB) 126, introduced by Senator Schellpeper and others. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 7, referred to the General Affairs Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments, Mr. President. (See AM0099 found on page 411 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Schellpeper, you're recognized to open on LB 126.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Mr. Chairman and members, LB 126 is an issue that has been around for a long time. We've been talking about teenager and alcohol it seems like the 13 years I have been here, what we can do to try to stop the teenagers from purchasing alcohol, from drinking alcohol, and from killing themselves with alcohol. Another concern has been retailers selling to underage individuals. We've had several bills in this session or in this body that would deal with underage drinking and selling, the retailers selling to minors, and we haven't been able to get anything through the body that would be helpful to the teenagers. The General Affairs Committee has had several bills over the years. We've done three interim studies, and the one thing that always came out is that we have to keep the retailers and the driver's license for the minors tied together. It's an issue that you don't do one without the other. And we've found out that if you do that, I think that it brings both sides together and the goal of everyone is to try to stop the teenagers from drinking alcohol. We're not going to stop it completely. That's been going on for...probably forever, but I think that we...if we can do anything, that is very important, and if we can save one life of these teenagers, I think the bill would be worth it. But in this...in these interim hearings, we found out that the one thing that's really important to a teenager is their driver's license. And in surrounding states, they've found out that when you take away that driver's license, that you do stop the teenage drinking. That's the one thing that is very important to them. And so LB 126 will do that, it will take away the driver's license. If...when you look at 126, the intent of it is to not stop completely,